

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 /029 W
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R 261141 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3090

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3439

DEPT FOR AF/ C COHEN FROM AMBASSADOR

USIA FOR IAA MCGINLEY

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE BOKONGA

1. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE APRIL 25, BOKONGA HAD TWO- HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN WHICH LATTER EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION USG HAD INVITED MEMBER OF GOZ TO SPEAK ON AUTHENTICITY. MOBUTU REMARKED THAT IT SHOWED IT WAS AMERICANS WHO WERE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT ZAIRIANS WERE DOING. QUOTE: WHY DIDN' T THE BELGIANS DO IT FIRST, ESPECIALLY THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY -- IT WAS THEIR PLACE TO ASK US TO COME? END QUOTE, THE PRESIDENT ASKED.

2. MOBUTU OFFERED SEND ALONO FIVE- MAN TV CREW SO THAT BOKONGA' S SPEECHES COULD BE TELECAST BY SATELLITE. BOKONGA DEMURED SAYING IT WOULD COST TOO MUCH AND POINTING OUT USIA AND VOA WERE COVERING HIS ADDRESS TO VARIOUS ACADEMIC GROUPS.

3. BOKONGA WAS ABLE DURING ABOVE AUDIENCE TO SIDE TRACK TRIP TO US EARLY NEXT MONTH BY SAKOMBI WHOSE SPEECHES ON AUTHENTICITY IN SENEGAL, BELGIUM AND FRANCE HAVE BEEN MUCH BALLEYHOOED HERE.

4. BOKONGA SAYS HE FEELS MOBUTU IS 100 PERCENT BEHIND
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HIS TRIP AND SINCE PRESIDENT APPROVED HIS REMARKS HE HAS
BEEN COMMISSIONED TO REPRESENT HIM PERSONALLY.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN MOBUTU' S STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN
THIS TRIP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT USIS BE PROVIDED WITH
SPECIAL COVERAGE REQUESTED SEPTEL.
VANCE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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